Alpine Community Recovery Newsletter

PREPARING FOR NEXT TIME

The State Emergency Management Plan (SEMP) emphasises that there is a shared responsibility in emergency preparedness, meaning that everyone has a role to play. For community members, this means that:

- **you should be prepared to be self-sufficient for up to 72 hours after an emergency event**
- **you should have a home emergency kit**
- **you should know about the emergency risks in your local area (such as your neighbourhood)**

Community members should all have a personal emergency plan so that you know what you will do and where you will go in an emergency.

Shared responsibility does not mean equal responsibility. The emergency sector and Local, State, and Federal governments have more resources and information to make decisions and act on behalf of communities.

Find out more about shared responsibility by visiting emv.vic.gov.au/responsibilities/semp.

From your Alpine Resilience Committee

The Alpine Resilience Committee (ARC) is made up of government, non-government agencies, and community representatives to develop strategies and frameworks to support coordinated resilience planning within the Alpine region.

First established in 2006, ARC is the conduit between community, resilience groups, and the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC). ARC will help identify community issues and concerns and, where appropriate, advocate and lobby to implement programs and initiatives to address these concerns. ARC supports communities to understand the nature of shocks and disasters to actively prepare, plan for, and mitigate against the impacts of emergencies.

ARC is currently planning activities for Resilience Month in October, where community members will be invited to to take part in fun events while learning more about how to plan and prepare for emergencies.

Find out more about ARC and community-led planning by visiting **alpineshire.vic.gov.au**.

Alpine Shire Council acknowledges the Traditional Owners and First Nations peoples of the Alpine Shire and Resorts. We recognise and support their rich cultures and continual connections to Country, and pay our respects to Elders, past and present.

From your Alpine CRC

Since June 2020, the Alpine Community Recovery Committee (CRC) has represented bushfire-affected communities across the Alpine Shire and Resorts, helping give a voice to the broad views and recovery goals of local communities and placing local know-how and expertise at the front of longer-term recovery planning.

In March 2021, the Alpine CRC released a Community Recovery Plan (CRP) in consultation with communities across the Alpine Shire and Resorts, identifying priority areas and projects. In March 2022, the Alpine CRC released a Progress Review of the CRP, which captures examples of initiatives that increase the capacity of community to plan and respond to emergencies.

The Alpine CRC is starting a new chapter in 2022, with a focus on empowering Alpine communities to better prepare for and recover from emergencies.

Into the future, the framework of Community Recovery Plan will be adopted by the Alpine Resilience Committee (ARC) to support and enable their future work, including continuing to advocate for increased capacity building in the Alpine region based on the needs and priorities of communities.

Additionally, the Alpine CRC has identified communication as a significant gap in the ability of the local community to prepare for emergencies. Despite the large volume of information available, this information is not always sought or perceived as easy to access. To address this, the Alpine CRC is developing a project focused on this issue. More information will be provided as the project develops.

Find out more about the Alpine CRC by visiting **alpineshire.vic.gov.au/alpine-community-recovery-committee**.

What's happening in your community?

Local knowledge is key to informing effective action in times of emergency. This is why Council has been working with the regions in the Alpine Shire to develop Community Profiles that are specific to their communities.

The Profiles will support interested communities to develop preparedness plans so that community members know what to do in times of emergency. They will also provide detailed insight into each community for the Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP) to ensure that emergency preparedness and response is localised.

Council thanks the members of the community who have kindly donated their time to the development of the Profiles so far.

Are you interested in contributing to your Community Profile? Please contact Council's Emergency Management team by emailing **em@alpineshire.vic.gov.au**.

Reconnect with Wodonga TAFE

Free support to reconnect you with education and employment.

Are you currently unemployed and looking to get back into paid work? You may be eligible for help with training costs through the Reconnect program.

Wodonga TAFE has been delivering the Reconnect program in the Alpine Shire for over two years. During this time they have helped locals into short- and longer-term training at no cost including: Certificate III in Individual Support, First Aid, White Card, Chainsaw ticket and Safe Chemical User course, often using other training providers.

Wodonga TAFE works with people to identify pathways, break down barriers and build their confidence to take the first step. They offer one on one support to step you forward in the right direction and are there for you to talk things over with and provide practical help.

Contact the team on **1300 698 233** or visit **wodongatafe.edu.au/reconnect**.

Funding opportunities

Community Enterprise Foundation Alpine Bushfire Recovery Grants Program | Grants of up to $50,000 are available for established not-for-profit organisations in the Alpine region. Closes 29 September 2022. Information will be available shortly on **communityenterprisefoundation.com.au**.

DELWP Victorian Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grants | Schools, preschools, kindergartens, childcare centres, Scouts, Girl Guides, youth and Junior Landcare groups are encouraged to apply for grants of up to $5,000. Closes 9 August 2022. Visit **juniorlandcare.org.au/grant/2022-victorian-junior-landcare-and-biodiversity-grants**.

FRRR Strengthening Rural Communities | Grants up to $25,000 are available for a broad range of community-led initiatives. Round 14 closes 30 August 2022. Visit **frrr.org.au/funding/place/strengthening-rural-communities** or contact Vivienne McCrory on **1800 170 020** or **info@frrr.org.au**.

Into Our Hands North East Bushfire Appeal | Community groups and organisations are invited to apply for funding for projects between $500 - $2,000 that support recovery, resilience, and future preparedness. Closes 8 August 2022. Visit **intoourhandsfoundation.com.au/apply-for-a-grant-bushfire**.

Victorian Government Solar for Business Program | Rebates of up to 50% of the total cost are available for small businesses in Victoria to install approved small-scale solar systems up to 30kW. Find out if you are eligible for a rebate value of up to $3,500 by visiting **solar.vic.gov.au/site-4/solar-small-business**.

Visit Victoria Regional Events Fund | Regional communities are invited to apply for funding opportunities that support the acquisition, growth, or planning of events across regional areas. Visit **corporate.visitvictoria.com/events/regional-events** or contact Tourism North East on **03 5728 2773**.

Indi Funding Finder | The Federal Member for Indi has comprehensive information on grants available on their website, including how to apply for grants and upcoming opportunities in the region. For more information, visit **helenhaines.grantguru.com.au**.

Mobile Signal Boosters

Community Business Connect, part of the AgBiz Assist group, has been awarded grant funding from the Australian Government for the Rural Connectivity for Recovery and Resilience Project.

This funding will enable the distribution and installation of no cost Mobile Signal Boosters to residences in low coverage areas identified within the Alpine and Towong Shires.

Community Business Connect will visit these areas and offer, in addition to the Mobile Signal Boosters, one-on-one education, support and communication analysis for residents of the impacted communities.

Find out more by visiting **cbconnect.com.au**.

WHAT HAS BEEN FUNDED?

In November 2021, the Mount Beauty Neighbourhood Centre and the Keep Calm Committee hosted RUOK? Coming out of the Smoke, a community picnic for residents of the Upper Kiewa Valley to come together and exchange experiences after a difficult couple of years.

The picnic also invited community members to learn more information about emergency preparedness, partnering with Ambulance Victoria, Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVic), Mount Beauty Country Fire Authority (CFA), Parks Victoria, New Access, Red Cross, Responsible Gambling Victoria, and State Emergency Service (SES).

It was a true local event, with food prepared by local businesses, including the Mount Beauty Men's Shed, and Alpine Radio broadcasting live on the day.

In May 2022, another event focused on winter safety and included a demonstration of the jaws of life from Mount Beauty CFA to highlight how they rescue people after car accidents. Thank you to Mount Beauty and District Rotary, who ran the sausage sizzle.

ALPINE
SHIRE COUNCIL